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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,725	12/15/2000	Bryan R. Goring	NTL-3.2.141/3504(11726STU	1456

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EXAMINER

RETTA, YEHDEGA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,725

Applicant(s)

GORING, BRYAN R.

Examiner

Yehdega Retta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

This office action is in response to amendment filed December 13, 2004.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-21, 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roberts U.S. Patent No. 6,493,110.

Regarding claims 1-21 and 24-26, Roberts teaches downloading transaction information; retrieving an image associated with the transaction information; converting the image into a pixels matrix representations and printing at least one scan line; wherein the image information is a file name; a URL, wherein line is printed in a predetermined location on said receipt; monitoring transaction information and downloading image information (see Abstract, col. 6 line

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64 to col. 7 line 28, col. 8 lines 30-59, col. 11 lines 34-62, col. 12 lines 42-60, col. 17 lines 46-60 and col. 18 lines 44-63) ; converting the image into pixels matrix representation and printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix or converting the image into gray scale or dithered black and white pixel matrix (see col. 19 line 1 to col. 22 line 46).

Regarding claims 1-23, 25 and 26, applicant claims a method of printing a receipt or coupon on the preamble. But there is no feature in the body of the claim that indicates the images are printed on a receipt or coupon. No patentable weight is given since limitation, cited in the preamble are intended use only.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeLapa U.S. Patent No. 6,076,068.

Regarding claim 24, DeLapa teaches a coupon generator coupled to an input port to receive and process purchase information, the coupon generator providing an index pointer responsive to purchase information and a coupon image database having accessible coupon fields for storage and retrieval of coupon images, said coupon generator incorporating a related coupon image with the purchase information for transmission to an output port. DeLapa teaches kiosk outputting targeted coupons and images of the coupons being formatted "on the fly"(see abstract, col. 4 line 21 to col. 5 line 15, col. 18 lines 16-35).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 19, 22, 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLapa U.S. Patent No. 6,076,068 further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claims 19, 22, 23, 25 and 26, DeLapa teaches a coupon generator (kiosk) coupled to an input port to receive and process purchase information, the coupon generator providing an index pointer responsive to purchase information and a coupon image database having accessible coupon fields for storage and retrieval of coupon images, said coupon generator incorporating a related coupon image with the purchase information for transmission to an output port. DeLapa teaches kiosk outputting targeted coupons and images of the coupons being formatted "on the fly" (see abstract, col. 4 line 21 to col. 5 line 15, col. 18 lines 16-35). DeLapa does not disclose converting the image into pixels matrix representation and printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix or converting the image into gray scale or dithered black and white pixel matrix. It is well known in the art of printing to convert image into pixel matrix and for the printer to print the image by selectively printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix. Image are converted into pixel matrix in order to form the image since image graphic is made up of a grid of pixels, and since most graphic images are in grayscale and most printers can only print using a black dot, printers convert the grayscale image into black-and-white image. Gray scale is used to represent colors with different shades of gray for use with non-color printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use such printer in order to print the image on the receipt or coupon of DeLapa. Reber teaches a workstation, with software loaded on, capable of connecting to a network, a

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printer (see fig. 1, 8, 10 and col. 2 lines 41-59). Reber teaches monitoring transaction information and downloading image information (see col. 6 lines 16-61).

Claims 1-21, 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber (US 5,969,324) further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claims 1-21, 23, 25 and 26, Reber teaches printing receipt including image; downloading transaction information; retrieving an image associated with the transaction information; converting the image into a pixels matrix representations and printing at least one scan line; wherein the image information is a file name; a URL, wherein line is printed in a predetermined location on said receipt (see col. 2 lines 33-50, col. 4 line 57 to col. 5 line 15, col. 6 line 1 to col. 8 line 17, col. 9 line 60). Reber does not disclose converting the image into pixels matrix representation and printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix or converting the image into gray scale or dithered black and white pixel matrix. It is well known in the art of printing to convert image into pixel matrix and for the printer to print the image by selectively printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix. Image are converted into pixel matrix in order to form the image since image graphic is made up of a grid of pixels, and since most graphic images are in grayscale and most printers can only print using a black dot, printers convert the grayscale image into black-and-white image. Gray scale is used to represent colors with different shades of gray for use with non-color printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use such printer in order to print the image on the receipt of Reber. Reber teaches a workstation, with software loaded on, capable of connecting to a

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network, a printer; point-of-sale (see fig. 1, 8, 10 and col. 2 lines 41-59). Reber teaches monitoring transaction information and downloading image information (see col. 6 lines 16-61).

Claims 19, 22, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLapa U.S. Patent No. 6,076,068 further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claims 19, 22, 25 and 26, DeLapa teaches a coupon generator (kiosk) coupled to an input port to receive and process purchase information, the coupon generator providing an index pointer responsive to purchase information and a coupon image database having accessible coupon fields for storage and retrieval of coupon images, said coupon generator incorporating a related coupon image with the purchase information for transmission to an output port. DeLapa teaches kiosk outputting targeted coupons and images of the coupons being formatted "on the fly" (see abstract, col. 4 line 21 to col. 5 line 15, col. 18 lines 16-35). DeLapa does not disclose converting the image into pixels matrix representation and printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix or converting the image into gray scale or dithered black and white pixel matrix. It is well known in the art of printing to convert image into pixel matrix and for the printer to print the image by selectively printing pixels corresponding to pixel matrix. Image are converted into pixel matrix in order to form the image since image graphic is made up of a grid of pixels, and since most graphic images are in grayscale and most printers can only print using a black dot, printers convert the grayscale image into black-and-white image. Gray scale is used to represent colors with different shades of gray for use with non-color printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use such printer in order to print the image on the receipt or coupon of DeLapa. Reber teaches a workstation, with software loaded on, capable of connecting to a network, a printer (see fig. 1, 8, 10 and col. 2

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lines 41-59). Reber teaches monitoring transaction information and downloading image information (see col. 6 lines 16-61).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, filed 12/13/04, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-26 under Sleeper have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of DeLapa, Roberts and Reber.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Jones (US 5,500,681) teaches generating and printing coupon bearing coupon information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdega Retta whose telephone number is (571) 272-6723. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Yehdega Retta*  
RETTAYEHDEGA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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